Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society
KERN CHAPTER

JUNE 2024

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EVENTS

JUNE

7, 8, 9 – CNPS Chapter Council Meeting, Kernville
7 – 9:00 am Field Trip TBA
Meet at Nuui Cunni Lodge parking area, Kernville
9 – 9:00 am Field Trip Piute Mtns. Saddle Spring Rd.
Meet at Nuui Cunni Lodge parking area, Kernville
20 – Meeting 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Point Loma Nazarene University
PROGRAM: TBA

JULY & AUGUST

No meetings

SEPTEMBER

19 – Meeting 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Point Loma Nazarene University
PROGRAM: TBA

Jane Seymour Pinheiro (1907-1978): Antelope Valley Artist, Botanist, Conservationist and Activist

by Nancy Nies

Part One

WHEN MY NEIGHBOR TOLD ME ABOUT HER VISIT TO THE **Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve**, she showed me a box of note cards she had purchased there, featuring lovely watercolor paintings of California poppies. I had not been familiar with the artist, **Jane Pinheiro**, but was to learn that she was a woman of many remarkable accomplishments, devoted to the betterment of life in the Antelope Valley and the preservation of the desert's natural beauty.

Photo - Poppy Reserve Interpretive Association

Jane Seymour Pinheiro

Born **Jane Seymour** in Denver, she grew up in Salt Lake City, where she earned teaching credentials from the **University of Utah**. In the late 1920s, after her father died, Jane moved to California with her mother, who began running a boarding house in Pasadena. There, Jane met a young man from the Azores named **Joe Pinheiro**, whom she married in 1930. Ten years later, the couple moved to the Antelope Valley, so that Joe could take a job in the dairy at the **"Pancho" Barnes Dude Ranch**, located where **Edwards Air Force Base** is now.

Note card with painting entitled *"California Poppies and Davy Gilia"* by Jane S. Pinheiro

Self-Taught Artist and Botanist

Living in the Antelope Valley, Jane came to know and love the desert wildflowers. She began to draw and paint them, becoming a self-taught botanist and authority on desert plants. Jane Pinheiro served as botanical consultant for the **Nature Conservancy**, as well as for publications such as ***Sunset Magazine.*** A UC Davis botanist, seeing Jane's watercolor paintings, said they were so botanically accurate that they could be used for plant

identification, calling them "*a treasure*" worthy of protection.

This led to the **Lancaster Woman's Club**, of which Jane Pinheiro was a member, forming a **Wildflower Preservation Committee**. The group raised the funds to purchase 163 of Jane's botanical watercolors and provide them with acid-free mountings, oak frames and protective padded envelopes for transport and storage. Eventually, the paintings would be housed in a place Jane would not live to see — the poppy reserve's **Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center**. More than a hundred additional paintings hang in the galleries of the **Theodore Payne Foundation** and the **Native Plant Guild**. Others hang across the US, from coast to coast.

A UC Davis botanist, said they [her watercolors] were so botanically accurate that they could be used for plant identification,

Community Activist

Jane Pinheiro was an exceptionally capable woman, sensitive to the needs of her community and possessing both the will and the skill to "*get the job done.*" In 1949 Jane was instrumental in the establishment of what would become the **Antelope Valley Medical Center**. She would serve nearly 30 years on the hospital board. In 1950, foreseeing the need for water development in the valley, Jane began work to establish what would later be known as the **Antelope Valley East Kern Water Basin Agency.** That same year, Jane and a neighbor started the annual **Quartz Hill Almond Blossom Festival**. She also spent ten years on the Board of Directors of the **Antelope Valley Fair.** In addition, she founded the **Antelope Valley Allied Arts Association** and the **Antelope Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**.

Photo by Nancy Nies

"Saddleback Butte SP"– View from atop Saddleback Butte, Saddleback Butte State Park, 9 December 2020.

Environmental Activist

Early on, in the 1940s, Jane realized that rapid development threatened the desert trees and wildflower fields. Passionate about preserving and protecting the desert environment, Jane lobbied state and local officials on conservation issues. A friend of presidents and governors, she succeeded in convincing the California State Assembly to set aside almost 3,000 acres for the protection of the Joshua tree, creating what is now **Saddleback Butte State Park**.

She also worked to create **Devil's Punchbowl County Park** and eight wildflower/wildlife sanctuaries, ranging from 100 to 455 acres in size, in the Antelope Valley, and raised funds for **Red Rock Canyon**, **Morongo** and **Sand Ridge**, as well. In 1963, for the benefit of the many people who came each spring to view the valley's wildflowers, Jane established the first **Antelope Valley Wildflower Center**, which the **Lancaster Woman's Club** ran each spring for the following twenty years, until the opening of the **Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center**.

Despite failing health during her last decade of life, Jane continued her work to preserve the desert she loved. Known for her projects at the state and county levels, she also earned two national awards for her work in conservation — the Nature Conservancy's **Oak Leaf Award** in 1975 and the **Sol Feinstone Environmental Award** in 1976. ✿ [*to be continued in September issue.*]

Thank You
... to Greg Warrick for his presentation in April, updating us on Sand Ridge.
... to Rich Spjut for sharing his painstaking and innovative work on the origins of Ephedra.
... to Lucy, Rose, Melanie and Erin for helping promote CNPS and giving advice at the Wind Wolves Festival and Felix for making flower cards. ✿

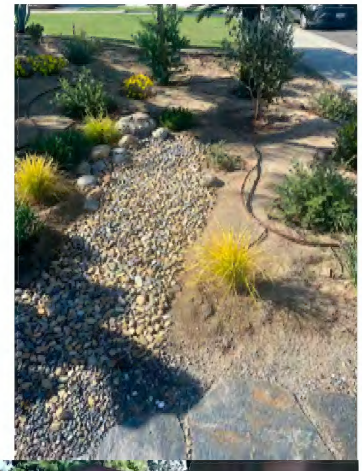
2024 Garden Tour
Variations on a Native Plant Theme

by Monica Tudor

WE HAD A GREAT DAY WITH BEAUTIFUL weather for the 2024 CNPS garden tour. We visited four very different gardens and learned how they were established and why the gardeners chose to ditch their lawns.

Schuler Garden

The first was a brand-new garden at the home of **Patty Schuler,** my neighbor. She explained that she wanted to renovate her front yard but her daughters talked her into going drought-tolerant with some natives. Her daughters had helped with a CNPS plant sale at my house and sold her on the idea. Patty started by not watering her grass, then eventually dug it out. She came over to my house, I went over to her house, and we talked about what she wanted her garden to look like. Patty wanted a whimsical garden with seating as a place for taking family photos, a path, and lots of flowers. She designed her garden with a few suggestions from **Cathy** at **Robbie's Nursery**, but did the work by herself with her husband and kids. She began planting in December 2023/January 2024, a little at a time. She put in wide flagstone paths, a bench for seating and for family portraits, a dry creek, and lots of beautiful plants, grasses, and blooming trees.



Photos - Monica Tudor and Dinah Campbell

Patty Schuler describes her design and execution process to the tour group. Above right: plants and watering line arrangements.

Tudor Garden

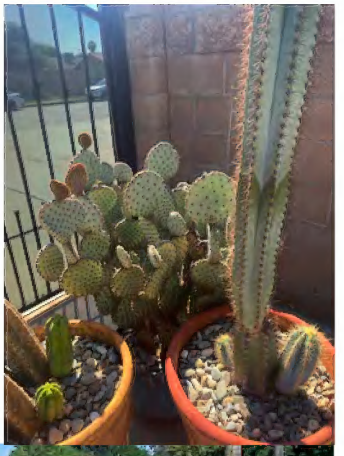
Next, we went to my house. My front yard landscape is about 7 years old and is mostly sages and buckwheat, with a few **desert mallows** and **poppies** and a **Desert Museum palo verde tree**. We also went to the backyard garden which is about 14 years old. It was not very manicured, because I didn't have the heart to pull up the volunteers in the paths.

Photos - Monica Tudor

Native flowers blooming in Monica's front yard: Left: elegant clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata)*, right: apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea-ambigua*).

Smith Garden

Next on the tour was **Keith Smith**'s home. **Pat Mumford** and I visited it together last year. Keith showed us around and told us he used **Arroyo Grande** as his landscaper. They worked with him to create an elegant and serene landscape of colored pebbles, paths, and **agave**. We liked it and thought it would be an interesting stop on the garden tour. Unfortunately, Keith was unavailable the day of the tour so he had his daughter, **Jenna Hale**, on site. Jenna greeted us and answered questions and gave us commentary on both the front and the back garden, which is also agave and areas of colored pebbles, with paths and with trees and shrubs.

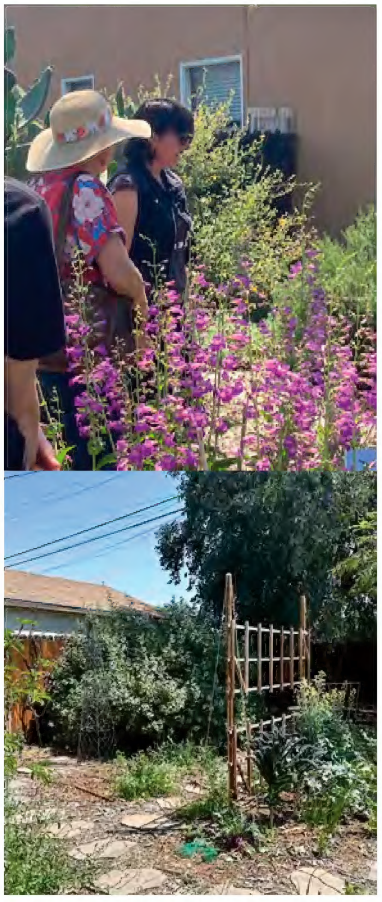


Photos - Dinah Campbell

Backyard pathways and cacti arrangements in the Smith yard.

Francis Garden

Our last garden was discovered and suggested by **Sabrina Mehtabuddin** and **Felix Colson**. They contacted the owner, **Isolde Francis,** who agreed to be part of the garden tour. When Isolde and her



Photos by Dinah Campbell

husband moved in, she had the typical grass yard, which she knew she didn't want to keep. Isolde initially wanted a pure native garden, but during COVID she decided she wanted to add sustainable food sources. Both her front and back gardens are a pleasing mix of natives and food sources, including fruit trees and vegetables.

Every year in April we visit new gardens, each with its own style, and come away with inspiration for our own gardens! Mark you calendar for next year, announcements will be on social media. ✿

Top: Isolde describes to Monica the evolution of their garden. Bottom: the backyard – a combination of food-producing plants and natives.

Chapter Meetings

upcoming TOPICS

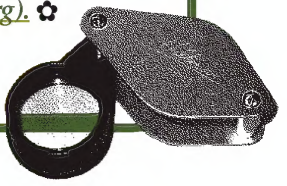
(Topics not determined at publication time. See *https://chapters.cnps.org/kern/events/* for most up-to-date information.)

All in-person chapter meetings are held the **3rd Thursday** of each month.

Place: 3rd Thursday meetings are held at **Point Loma Nazarene University, Bakersfield Regional Center,** 5030 California Ave, 3rd Floor, Room 1.

Meeting times: 6 –8:30 pm:
6 pm - Discussion groups: Plant ID and and native plant gardening; bring snacks to share
7 pm - Program presentation and a short business meeting.

Ideas for speakers are welcome. Contact **Paul Gipe** (*pgipe@igc.org).* ✿



Update:
Our Evolving Native Plant Nursery

Various interested members and volunteers help seedlings get a start at our section of the **Panorama Vista Preserve** growing area: Clockwise from above: **Adam**; **Bill** and **Pat**; and **Sabrina** and **Fred**. ✿

Botanist's Notes:
A Field Trip to Short Canyon leads to a Needed Name Correction for a *Leptosiphon* and to a New *Acmispon* in the Kern Flora

by Rich Spjut

IN PLANNING AND LEADING A FIELD TRIP TO **Short Canyon** on **April 16, 2024**, I reviewed the Kern Flora key to *Leptosiphon* and my identification of *L. aureus* based on that key; however, *Calflora* images for that species did not always agree. At the time **Maynard Moe**'s flora was published, **J. M. Porter** and **R. W. Patterson** reported, in **Aliso 2015**, titled *A Fistful of Polemoniaceae: New Names and Combinations*, *Leptosiphon chrysanthus*, a name they created for what had been known as *Leptosiphon aureus* in Kern County and elsewhere in the Mojave Desert. Because the same Latin name cannot be applied to different species, the legitimate *Leptosiphon aureus* had to be determined according to the ***International Code of Nomenclature (ICN)***. This turned out to be a species that grows in the **North Coast Ranges**. Furthermore, the common name, "**golden linanthus"**, only adds to the confusion, *Linanthus* being the genus name for six Kern species in the same family, **Polemoniaceae.** This "fistful" of names exemplifies why it is necessary to use Latin names according to the ICN.

Photo by Rich Spjut

Leptosiphon chrysanthus ssp. *chrysanthus*, Short Canyon along Short Canyon Road, 4-21-2023. This was formerly referred to as *leptosiphon aureus*, but a new name was necessary.

Another example of nomenclatural confusion for me occurred during the field trip when the participants reported seeing an abundance of "**sand verbena,**" known by the genus name *Abronia* in the **Nyctaginaceae**. But having studied plants worldwide, the genus *Verbena* in the **Verbenaceae** is what first comes to my mind. Moreover, we have three species of *Verbena* in Kern County.

The main highlight of the Short Canyon field trip was **Charlotte's phacelia** (*Phacelia nashiana*) as we have seen in previous trips since 2015. But I was more interested in seeing what I had not seen before in that canyon, the **desert star**, *Monoptilon bellidiforme*, and growing next to it, a scrub lotus, *Acmispon argyraeus var. multicaulis*. This variety has a California Rare Plant Rank: 1B.3, previously known only from the Mojave Desert mountains in eastern San Bernardino County.

Photo by Rich Spjut

Abronia pogonantha (Mojave sand verbena)

Photo by Rich Spjut

Verbena gooddingii (Southwestern mock vervain in Baja, California)

Finally, in preparing for the field trip to Short Canyon, I updated the nomenclature for the Mary Ann Henry's **Checklist of plants in Short Canyon** with links to Calflora and other sources. ✿

Photo courtesy Calflora

(Monoptilon bellidiforme) Desert star

Photo courtesy Calflora

(Acmispon argyraeus var. *multicaulis)* Scrub lotus

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The **Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society** currently meets the **3rd Thursday of each month**. Chapter website: *kern.cnps.org*

The **California Native Plant Society** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

CNPS has **31 chapters** throughout the state and membership is open to all persons – professional and amateur – with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes **Flora Magazine**, a quarterly journal with interviews, conservation updates, gardening advice. **Artemesia**, CNPS's scientific journal and **The Mimulus Memo**, the Kern Chapter newsletter published four times a year in January, March, June and September.

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at *cnps.org* **Membership levels:** $25, $50, $120, $500 ($25 minimum)Go Perennial at $5/month

To **unsubscribe/subscribe** to Kern CNPS email communications members should select the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of the email.

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California Native Plant Society
KERN CHAPTER

Mimulus Memo

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